(b) if so, the main recommendations of the team ; and

(c) the action taken to implement the scheme more vigorously for drought prone districts of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) After the report of the Team, 10 lakh MTs. of Rice have been allocated to Andhra Pradesh for the months of May and June, 2002.

Independent agricultural insurance company

1794. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to set up an independent agricultural insurance company to provide insurance cover exclusively for the agriculture related issues across the country;

(b) if so, whether nearly 19 States, including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat have agreed to participate in the agri insurance company;

(c) whether the above three States have registered one of the highest crop failures in the country; and

(d) if so, to what extent this insurance company would help farmers in the agriculture related issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir, Public Sector General Insurance Companies and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have decided to promote the new organization.

(b) All implementing States (21 States/UTs) including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat have accepted in principal the need for setting up of a separate National Agricultural Insurance Company.

(c) A wide-spread failure of crops during Kharif—2000, in Gujarat had occurred and as a consequence thereof the highest amount of indemnity claims so far amounting to Rs. 768.92 crore were paid in Gujarat.

(d) The proposed new organization would be helpful to the farmers in respect of the following:—

* All exclusive insurance company will be able to arrange adequate manpower-infrastructure so that it could easily become approachable by the farmers and effective monitoring of crop conditions including yield would also be possible.
* The proposed new agency will facilitate reducing the unit area of insurance.
* The farmers, particularly non-loanee farmers, would be able to submit their insurance proposals directly to the insurance company.
* The proposed new organization would be able to focus on crop insurance and make necessary changes, if required, in the implementation of the scheme quickly.

Lifting of ban on Endosulfan by Kerala

1795. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the ban imposed on 'Endosulfan'. pesticide which could cause severe health problems, has been lifted by Kerala Government;

(b) whether Government would consider to institute an enquiry in the matter and arrange to impose the ban on 'Endosulfan' pesticide;

(c) whether Government would consider to depute a Central team to study the adverse effect of pesticide including environment problems, in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir, .

(b) to (d) A study has been conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) of the Indian Council of Medical Research and they have submitted their first report. Further, the Registration